

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring operation of a television distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment, said method comprising:

receiving, at a control unit, a directive for a television distribution system operator to use a particular terminal under control of the system operator and remote from the subscriber equipment to monitor a particular channel within a plurality of channels transmitted from a head-end of the provider equipment to the subscriber equipment through a distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the directive is received at the control unit through a communications means not including the distribution node of the television distribution system;

sending a command to the particular terminal, the command indicative of the particular channel ~~to the particular terminal~~ to be monitored;

receiving, at the particular terminal, content being transmitted on the particular channel ~~at the particular terminal~~ through the distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the content is being provided by the provider equipment to the subscriber equipment using the particular channel;

capturing the received content; and

reporting the captured content.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify delivery of contents from the television distribution system.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify operation of a user interface at the particular terminal.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as one or more video frames.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as a video sequence.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the captured contents are reported as a bitmap.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the directive is received as part of a regular monitoring schedule.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the command is sent to a remote control unit.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular terminal is selected from among a plurality of terminals comprising at least one model operable to mimic a terminal in the subscriber equipment.
10. (currently amended) A monitoring system, operative to monitor operation of a television distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment, the monitoring system comprising:
 - one or more terminals under control of a television distribution system operator and remote from the subscriber equipment, each terminal operative to receive commands and provide requested content; and
 - a control unit configured to
 - receive a directive for the system operator to monitor a particular channel within a plurality of channels at a selected one of the one or more terminals, said plurality of channels providing content from at least one head-end of the provider equipment to at least one subscriber terminal of the subscriber equipment through a distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the directive is received at the control unit through a communication means not including the distribution node of the television distribution system,
 - send a command to the selected terminal,

receive ~~contents~~ content of the particular channel at the selected terminal through the distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the content is being provided by the provider equipment to the subscriber equipment using the particular channel, and

capture and report the received content.

11. (original) The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:
a monitor and control unit operatively coupled to the control unit and configured to provide the directive to monitor the particular channel at the selected terminal.
12. (original) The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to test user interaction at the selected terminal.
13. (original) The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to verify proper delivery of contents on a plurality of channels to a plurality of terminals.
14. (original) The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the command directs the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.
15. (previously presented) The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:
a remote control unit configured to receive the command from the control unit and direct the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.
16. (previously presented) The monitoring system of claim 10 and including a plurality of terminals of a plurality of terminal models deployable in the subscriber equipment.
17. (previously presented) The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the control unit includes

a media capture unit configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal.

18 (original) The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as one or more video frames.

19. (original) The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as a video sequence.

20. (currently amended) A monitoring system, operative to monitor delivery of ~~contents~~ content in a television distribution system comprising provider equipment and subscriber equipment, the monitoring system comprising:

a plurality of terminals under control of a television distribution system operator and remote from the subscriber equipment, each terminal operative to receive commands and provide requested content ~~contents~~;

a monitor and control unit configured to provide a directive for the system operator to use a selected terminal of the plurality of terminals to monitor a particular channel within a plurality of channels, said plurality of channels providing content to at least one subscriber terminal of the subscriber equipment through a distribution node of the television distribution system, wherein the directive is received at the monitor and control unit through a communication means not including the distribution node of the television distribution system; and

a control system configured to
receive the directive from the monitor and control unit,
send a command to the selected terminal,
receive content ~~contents~~ of the particular channel at the selected terminal through the distribution node of the television distribution system , wherein the received content is being provided by the provider equipment to the subscriber equipment using the particular channel, and

capture and report the received content.